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identical documents are to be found in print. Among the documents in the Additional Manuscripts, in the British Museum, which relate to the Peace Commission of 1778 (pp. 149-153), references might well have been made to Stevens's *Facsimiles*, where not a few of these papers may be found. The fact that they are there reproduced is, however, noted under the head of the Auckland Manuscripts in the list of transcripts which have been made for the Library of Congress and which is appended to this volume.

Very few errors or misprints have been noted, and in view of the care with which the volume has been edited, it is not likely that its prolonged use will bring to light any considerable number of such. The statement however is made on p. 172 that the permanent Council or Board of Trade of 1696 owed its appointment to Parliament. It was of course commissioned by the king, as similar boards in previous times had been, however great the influence of Parliament upon the adoption of the policy may have been.

HERBERT L. OSGOOD.

Statistical and Chronological History of the United States Navy, 1775-1907. In two volumes. By ROBERT WILDEN NEESER, Fellow of Yale College. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1909. Pp. 153; 487.)

IN these two volumes, Mr. Neeser has published about one-third of his monumental work on the American navy. As the remaining volumes will require much time and labor, he is at present unable to make any promises respecting the date of their completion. The entire work, which covers the period 1775-1907, he divides into five parts, as follows (I. vii., preface): (1) Administration of the Navy Department, and Events and Dates of Reference in United States Naval History; (2) Engagements, Expeditions, and Captures of Vessels of War; (3) Captures of Merchantmen; (4) a Complete Record of Every Vessel's Service and Fate; and (5) American Privateers, 1772-1862; the State Navies, 1775-1783; and the Confederate States Navy, 1861-1865. We understand that it is Mr. Neeser's intention to include a sixth part, which will contain lists of secretaries of the navy, assistant secretaries, chiefs of bureaus, commanders of squadrons, etc. It may be seen from this synopsis that every phase of the history of the navy of the United States is treated, and that special attention is paid to naval operations, naval administration, the history of vessels, the navy of the Southern Confederacy, the state navies and the privateers. There is, to be sure, a kindred subject, the colonial navies and privateers, but this obviously does not form a part of the history of the "United States navy".

From the point of view of the reader, Mr. Neeser's work contains a seventh part, a bibliography of the American navy, which is published as volume I., and which forms one of the author's most valuable contri-

butions to naval history. While no bibliography, owing to inevitable limitations, wholly exhausts its subject, that of Mr. Neeser, it must be said, approaches remarkably near to this desideratum. How thoroughly he has executed his work appears from the statement that his bibliography contains no less than 9,284 entries, three times as many as are found in an excellent publication of the same kind and covering the same field, which appeared in 1906. One of the notable features of volume I. is the listing of the naval sources in manuscript found in the Navy Department, Treasury Department, Department of State, Department of War, and Library of Congress, at Washington; in the British Admiralty Records, at London; and in the Archives Nationales, at Paris. Attention should also be called to a complete list of the official publications of the American government relating to the navy, which is now published for the first time. As the author, following a natural order of procedure, has not yet investigated privateering and state navies his record of the manuscript sources of these subjects is incomplete.

Volume II. contains the first three parts of the complete work as enumerated by Mr. Neeser in his preface. Part I., to which is devoted the first twenty-two pages of this volume, consists of a chronological table of naval events of a somewhat miscellaneous character. Each event is accompanied with reference to all the chief sources of information bearing upon it. In this connection, one may add that the inclusion of exhaustive references to every important item of information forms one of the most valuable features of the work.

With parts II. and III. the author begins the principal task which he has set for himself, namely, the composition of a statistical or tabular history of the navy. Since naval history consists largely of numerous items of information respecting ships, cruises and engagements, it lends itself remarkably well to presentation by means of tables. On the other hand, by no means all of the essential facts can be compressed within the rigid limits set by tabular forms. The skeleton of history may be thus presented, but not the flesh and blood, which demand a more vital and flexible method of treatment.

Mr. Neeser has accurately described his book in the preface as "a comprehensive reference work of our naval history". It is also an immense guide-book to the field of history of which it treats. The execution of so extensive and erudite a work requires the rare qualities possessed by Mr. Neeser, patient and painstaking scholarship and unlimited industry and enthusiasm. The fine craftsmanship of the publisher is also worthy of notice. Each volume is accompanied with an excellent index.

CHARLES OSCAR PAULLIN.